

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106139

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ELAB, CI

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF COMACH LEADER EDUARDO
RIOS, APRIL 20-24

REF: A) SANTIAGO 2930; B) SANTIAGO 2937; C) SANTIAGO 2316;
D) SANTIAGO 0458

1. DURING SUBJECT VISIT RIOS TALKED WITH AFL/CIO AND
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. AS RESULT OF TALKS AFL-CIO HAS
RESCHEDULED TWICE-DEFERRED SOLIDARITY VISIT TO CHILE.
TARGET DATE IS NOW MID-MAY. THOMAS "TEDDY" GLEASON,
PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMENS' ASSOCIATION,
IS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS
ARE SOL CHAIKIN, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES'
GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, AND GLENN WATTS, PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA. MICHAEL BOGGS,
AFL/CIO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
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AND WILLIAM C. DOHERTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT, WOULD ACCOMPANY.
APPROVAL OF THE TRIP WAS GIVEN BY GEORGE MEANY ON BASIS
OF STRONG MEMORANDUM FROM INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
ERNEST LEE INDICATING NEED FOR ACTION TO PREVENT DESTRUC-
TION OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN CHILE.

2. IN VISIT TO DEPARTMENT RIOS MADE POINT THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOCH HAS TAKEN SOME POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IN SOME IMPORTANT AREAS IT HAS AT THE SAME TIME INCREASED PRESSURE ON DEMOCRATIC LABOR LEADERSHIP WITH THE OBJECTIVE, ACCORDING TO RIOS, OF WEAKENING AND THEN CONTROLLING THE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS NOW LED BY THE "DINAMICOS". THE ISSUE OF RIOS' ALLEGED USE OF HIS POSITION AS TRADE UNION LEADER TO FURTHER OBJECTIVES OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS RAISED. RIOS DENIED THE CHARGE AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS JUST ONE MORE PRETEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO JUSTIFY ITS REPRESENTATIVE ACTIONS. BASED ON REFTELS AND OTHER REPORTING FROM EMBASSY WE ARE INCLINED AS IS THE AFL-CIO TO ACCEPT RIOS'S ASSESSMENT OF GOCH INTENTIONS AND HIS DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. RIOS SUGGESTED TO US THAT TO COMPLEMENT AFL-CIO ACTIONS EMBASSY MIGHT CONSIDER POINTING OUT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT USG SUPPORT OF FREE LABOR MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT WORLD IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THAT OUR FAVORABLE REACTION TO RECENT ADVANCES IN OTHER AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS TEMPERED BY OUR CONCERN FOR APPARENT DISREGARD FOR TRADE UNION FREEDOMS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE USEFUL. IF YOU AGREE PLEASE TAKE APPROPRIATE

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ACTION. VANCE

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